WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for the production of a polyester or poly(ester-amide) liquid crystalline polymer, comprising a step of increasing the molecular weight of said liquid crystalline polymer by solid state polymerizing of said liquid crystalline polymer at a temperature of about 300°C or more, wherein the liquid crystalline polymer, after said solid state polymerizing, has a melting point of about 380°C or more, wherein the improvement comprises, about 5 to about 1000 ppm of an alkali metal cation being present in said liquid crystalline polymer during said solid state polymerizing.

2. The process as recited in claim 1 wherein said alkali metal cation is lithium, sodium or potassium.

3. The process as recited in claim 1 wherein said alkali metal cation is potassium.

4. The process as recited in claim 1 wherein about 10 ppm to about 40 ppm of said alkali metal cation is present.

5. The process as recited in claim 1 wherein said alkali metal cation is added as an alkali metal carboxylate.

6. The process as recited in claim 1 wherein said alkali metal cation is added as an alkali metal 4-hydroxybenzoate.

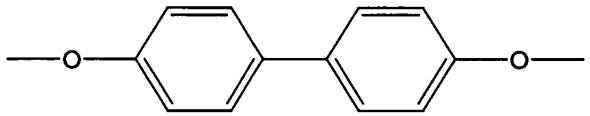
7. The process as recited in claim 3 wherein said alkali metal cation is added as potassium 4-hydroxybenzoate.

8. The process as recited in claim 1 wherein said solid state polymerizing is carried out at about 340°C or more.

9. The process as recited in claim 1 wherein said melting point is about 400°C or more.

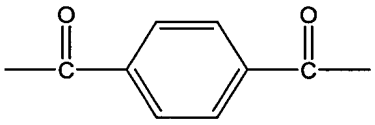
10. The process as recited in claim 1 wherein said liquid crystalline polymer has repeat units of the formula

(a)



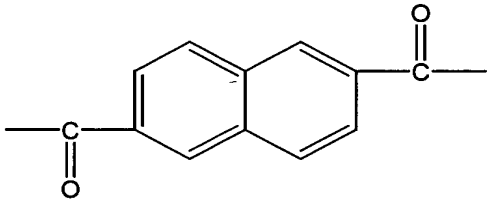
(I)

(b)



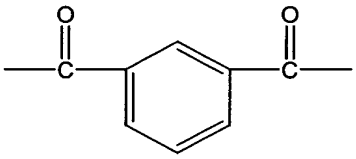
(II)

(c) one or both of



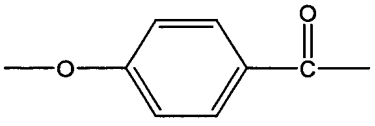
(III)

and



(IV), and

(d)



(V),

wherein per 100 molar parts of (I), (II) is 85-98 molar parts, (III)+(IV) is 2-15 molar parts, and (V) is 100 to 225 molar parts, provided that the molar ratio of (I)/(II)+(III) is about 0.90 to about 1.10.

11. The process as recited in claim 1 wherein said liquid crystalline polymer is a polyester.

12. The process as recited in claim 1 wherein said liquid crystalline polymer is an aromatic polymer.